

Amendments to the Specification:

In the Specification, please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 26, as follows:

One manner of assembling an adapter 10 begins with the individual components as shown in FIG. 2. One of the sleeves 64 is placed into sleeve opening 82 of inner housing half 44, through opening 78. Sleeve 64 is prevented from passing entirely through opening 82 by ridge 84. One of the ferrule ends 70 is inserted into the sleeve 64 in inner housing half 44 until one end of intermediate ~~ferrule~~ hub 76 rests against annular ledge 80. A second sleeve 64 is placed on the ferrule end 70 extending from inner housing half 44 until it rests against intermediate ~~ferrule~~ hub 76 and the inner housing half 42 is placed over the inner housing half 42 so that sleeve 64 extends into opening 82. Inner housing half 42 is positioned so that faces 48 of both inner housing halves rest against each other and retaining clips 60 and 62 of each inner housing half extend parallel to each other, forming inner housing assembly 41. Inner housing assembly 41 is placed into the axial cavity of main housing 12 through opening 40 in top side-wall 16. Inner assembly 41 is positioned so that ledge 50 engages the opposing sides of inner wall 56 and retaining clips 60 and 62 are adjacent and parallel to left side-wall 22 and right side-wall 20. Cover 14 is then placed over opening 40 so that inner walls 58 engage the opposing ridge ends 55 of main housing 12 and ledges 50 of the assembled inner housing halves.

In the Specification, please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 13, as follows:

FIGS. 4 and 5 show a cross-sectional view of an assembled adapter 10 mounted to a bulkhead 120, as shown in FIG. 8. Opening 86 extends through attenuation hub 68 and receives optical fiber 72. As shown in the illustrated example, attenuation hub 68 includes two ferrule ends 70 with intermediate hub or sleeve 76 positioned about the junction of the two halves. Ferrule ends 70 are joined along ferrule inner faces 96. Opening 86 widens into opening 94 in inner face 96. This enlarged opening 94 allows for easier insertion of optical fiber 72 into opening 86 during assembly of attenuation hub

68. To assemble attenuation hub 68, a first end of fiber 72 is inserted into a first ferrule end 70 through opening 94 and into opening 86, then through opening 86 beyond face 74 of the first ferrule end 70. The second end of fiber 72 is inserted similarly through opening 96 into opening 86 of a second ferrule end 70 and then through opening 86 beyond face 74 of the second ferrule end 70. Ferrule ends 70 are joined along their respective faces 96 and placed within an intermediate ~~ferrule~~ hub 76. Fiber 72 is cleaved at each face 74 and polished.
